

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 /069 W

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R 281700Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1033

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, HO

SUBJECT: ELECTION OF SITRATERCO'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. SITRATERCO (THE UNITED BRANDS UNION) HAS BEEN HOLDING A NATIONAL CONGRESS IN PUERTO CORTES. AMONG THE ORDER OF BUSINESS WAS THE ECECTION OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ORGANIZATION. THE FORMER PRESIDENT, OSCAR GALE VARELA, HAD DECIDED NOT TO RUN AGAIN BECAUSE OF POOR HEALTH. THE NEW MEMBERS ARE THE FOLLOWING:

- (A) PRESIDENT - OBDULIO CACERES;
- (B) SECRETARY GENERAL - FAUSTINO CABALLERO;
- (C) ORGANIZATION SECRETARY - ROBERTO M. BUESO;
- (D) LABOR SECRETARY - JORGE PINEDA;
- (E) FINANCE SECRETARY - FELIPE A. SANDERS; AND
- (F) CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY - EDILBERTO MARTINEZ RIVERA.

2. THE ELECTION WAS MARRED BY THE WALK OUT OF SOME DELEGATES LED BY LUIS THIEBAUD AND OTHER COMMUNIST SYMPATHIESRS. THEY SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED A DECLARATION STATING THAT THE NEW
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WAS IMPOSED BY THE "TRADITIONAL

UNION BUREAUCRACY" WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY. THE DECLARATION SAID THAT ITS SIGNERS DENIED THE VALIDITY OF THE ELECTION, CALLED FOR A PLEBISCITE OF THE UNION MEMBERS AND ASKED THE MINISTER OF LABOR TO INVESTIGATE THE SITUATION.

3. THE CONGRESS ISSUED A DECLARATION THAT CONDEMNED THE ACTIONS OF THE DISSIDENT GROUP AND CALLED IT AN ACT OF REBELLION AGAINST THE MAJORITY OF THE CONGRESS DELEGATES. IT STATED THAT THE ACTION WAS TOTALLY IRRESPONSIBLE, CONTRARY TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE UNION, AND HAD DAMAGED THE "PRESITGE AND UNITY OF THE ORGANIZATION".

4. COMMENT: THE COMMUNIST MOVE AGAINST THE UNION'S NEW LEDERSHIP WAS DETERMINED BY THEIR DESIRE TO UNDERCUT CACERES AND THE UNION MODERATES. THEIR MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT WAS TO CREATE A PUBLIC IMAGE OF INTERNAL DISSIDENCE AND DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE UNION. THE COMMUNISTS WILL OBVIOUSLY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION TO TRY AND ADVANCE THEIR RANK AND FILE SUPPORT BY POINTING TO THE WALK OUT AS A PROTEST AGAINST THE UNIONS "REACTIONARY LEADERSHIP". IT IS IRONIC TO NOTE THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE UTILIZING

TERM "REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY" IN THE ATTACK AGAINST THE PRESENT MODERATE LEADERSHIP ELECTED THROUGH THE UNION'S DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.
SANCHEZ

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